GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:116
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2003
CULTIVABLE LAND
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 320 million hectares land of the total geographical area, only 181 million hectares of land is cultivable;

(b) if so, whether the Government has enquired into the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantum of uncultivated land that has been converted into cultivable land during each of the last five years alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 116due for reply on 09.12.2003 regarding CULTIVABLE LAND.

(a) to (c): As per the Nine-fold Land Use Classification of Ministry of Agriculture, outof 329 million hectares (total geographical area of the country), 183.5 million hectares is cultivable land. This includes 141.2 million hectares net sown area, 14.8 million hectares under current fallow lands other than current fallows, 13.8 million hectares area under culturable wasteland and 3.6 million hectare land under miscellaneous tree crops.

The balance area falls under different land uses such as forest, permanent pastures, other grazing lands, barren and unculturable land, and area under non-agricultural uses like buildings roads, railways, rivers, canals, other water bodies etc. which cannot be converted into cultivable land except at exorbitant cost.

(d): The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is mainlyimplementing three schemes/programmes namely, Centrally Sponsored Programme of Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers (RVP&FPR), Reclamation of Alkali Soils and Watershed Development Project in shifting Cultivation Areas for treatment/reclamation of degraded lands on watershed basis. The details of achievements under each scheme for the past five years (1998-99 to 2002-03) and the current year (2003-04) are contained in the Annexure. The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three major Programmes namely the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) for treatment of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed approach in accordance with the guidelines for watershed development w.e.f. 1.4.1995. The area sanctioned and funds released under these programmes during the last five years (1998-99 to 2002-03) are also given in the Annexure.

Annexure referred to in Reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 116 for answer on 9.12.2003

Total Area treated under problem lands
(Physical in thousand ha. and Financial Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Scheme	1998-99		99-2000		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		Total	
		Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.
1	Reclamation of Alkali Soils	29.53	372.30	19.19	322.50	14.45	152.00	3.20	340.00	20.784	791.870	5.28	340.01	87.15	1978.67
2	Soil Conservation Scheme in River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers (RVP&FPR)	244.73	11498.55	302.08	12656.25	229.41	11447.07	163.23	10310.85	204.03	11995.37	39.60	2610.12	1183.07	60518.21
3	Watershed Dev.	40.548	1714.85	27.961	1683.15	30.774	1797.87	22.005	1535.19	19.336	1967.25	5.521	572.00	518.214	9270.31

Programme for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) for North Eastern States													
Total	314.808	13585.70	349.231	2005.65	274.634	13396.94	188.44	12186.04	244.15	14754.49	50.40	3522.13	1788.43	71767.19

Area Sanctioned and Funds released under IWDP, DPAP and DPP during the last five years (1998-99 to 2002-03)

(Physical in thousand ha. and Financial Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Programme	1998-99		99-2000		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		Total	
		Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.
1	Integrated Wastelands Dev. Programme (IWDP)	518.19	6199.90	701.32	8307.42	1104.01	12977.97	797.89	18599.53	335.52	26793.150	3456.93	72877.97
2	Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	440.00	7300.00	1139.00	9500.00	1685.50	19000.01	1026.00	20951.62	1239.00	25000.00	87281.13	81751.63
3	Desert Dev. Programme (DDP)	200.00	7999.36	750.00	8500.00	829.50	13499.79	679.50	15003.00	801.00	18500.00	66762.15	63502.15
Total		1158.19	21499.26	2590.32	26307.42	3619.01	45477.77	2503.39	54554.15	2375.52	70293.15	157500.21	218131.75